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Top 5 AI and Data Science Trends to Watch in 2026

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AI and Data Science are evolving rapidly in 2026. Organizations that adopt these changes early will lead the future. These emerging trends in **AI** and **Data Science** must be acted upon.

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1 AI and Data Science Impacting the Economy

Massive AI Investment:

The latest AI-related CapEx spending forecasts indicate that their joint investments will easily exceed $600 **billion** this year. (Statista, 2026)

Data Center Expansion Pressure:

A $7 trillion race to scale data centers. *(McKinsey, 2026)*

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2 The Real State of AI and Data Science in 2026

Workforce Data Readiness:

Data culture and literacy is the number-one priority for 2026, cited by 43% of leaders. *(Business Wire)*

Edge Data Shift:

By 2026, IDC predicted that nearly 75% of enterprise data will be created and processed at the edge.

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3 GenAI to be the Core of Organizations

Microsoft says over 80% of the Fortune 500 is deploying active agents built with low-code/no-code tools

Why GenAI for Better Organizational Workflow?

- Faster decision-making and personalized process adaptation
- Task automation and cross-team communication

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4 Agentic AI Overhyped Now, Valuable Later

Over 96% of decision-makers say AI agents are essential to competitiveness as per Cloudera

Why Agentic AI Will Be Valuable?

- Handles multi-systems and reduces operational costs
- Learns from context and 24/7 execution without dependency

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5 Need for Control on AI and Data Privacy

Control on AI	Data Privacy
Clear governance and effective execution of responsible AI practices	Regulatory compliance
Bias monitoring and human oversight	Transparency, user trust, and reliable data sharing

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